

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 465 entitled “An act relating to boards and commissions” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate
5 propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 8, 32 V.S.A. § 1010, in subdivision (e)(1), following the last
7 sentence of the subdivision, by inserting the following:

8 Prior to submitting this schedule, the Governor shall consult with each elective
9 officer or State officer who administers per diems that are not funded by the
10 General Fund.

11 Second: By adding a new reader assistance heading and section to be
12 Sec. 7a to read as follows:

13 * * * Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission * * *

14 Sec. 7a. 18 V.S.A. § 7257b is amended to read:

15 § 7257b. EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDER WELLNESS

16 COMMISSION

17 * * *

18 (b) There is created the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission
19 within the Agency of Human Services that, in addition to the purposes listed
20 below, shall consider the diversity of emergency service providers on the basis
21 of gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability

1 status, and the unique needs that emergency service providers who have
2 experienced trauma may have as a result of their identity status:

3 (1) to identify where increased or alternative supports or strategic
4 investments within the emergency service provider community, designated or
5 specialized service agencies, or other community service systems could
6 improve the physical and mental health outcomes and overall wellness of
7 emergency service providers;

8 (2) to identify how Vermont can increase capacity of qualified clinicians
9 in the treatment of emergency service providers to ensure that the services of
10 qualified clinicians are available throughout the State without undue delay;

11 (3) to create materials and information, in consultation with the
12 Department of Health, including a list of qualified clinicians, for the purpose of
13 populating an electronic emergency service provider wellness resource center
14 on the Department of Health's website;

15 (4) to educate the public, emergency service providers, State and local
16 governments, employee assistance programs, and policymakers about best
17 practices, tools, personnel, resources, and strategies for the prevention and
18 intervention of the effects of trauma experienced by emergency service
19 providers;

20 (5) to identify gaps and strengths in Vermont's system of care for both
21 emergency service providers who have experienced trauma and their

1 immediate family members to ensure access to support and resources that
2 address the impacts of primary and secondary trauma;

3 (6) to recommend how peer support services and qualified clinician
4 services can be delivered regionally or statewide;

5 (7) to recommend how to support emergency service providers in
6 communities that are resource challenged, remote, small, or rural;

7 (8) to recommend policies, practices, training, legislation, rules, and
8 services that will increase successful interventions and support for emergency
9 service providers to improve health outcomes, job performance, and personal
10 well-being and reduce health risks, violations of employment, and violence
11 associated with the impact of untreated trauma, including whether to amend
12 Vermont’s employment medical leave laws to assist volunteer emergency
13 service providers in recovering from the effects of trauma experienced while
14 on duty; and

15 (9) to consult with federal, State, and municipal agencies, organizations,
16 entities, and individuals in order to make any other recommendations the
17 Commission deems appropriate.

18 (c)(1) The Commission shall comprise the following members and, to the
19 extent feasible, include representation among members that reflects the gender,
20 gender identity, racial, age, ethnic, sexual orientation, social, and disability
21 status of emergency service providers in the State:

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* * *

(W) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association for
Hospitals and Health Systems; ~~and~~
(X) the Executive Director of the Enhanced 911 Board or designee;
and
(Y) a member of the Professional Ski Patrol Association.

* * *

(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE